IDW

ISSUE #0

THE TRANSFORMERS™

INFILTRATION

> THE TRANSFORMERS #0

> "PRELUDE TO INFILTRATION"

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>>>>>

INFILTRATION:

THEY ARE AMONG US. HERE, NOW. THEY HAVE BEEN ON EARTH FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS, THE POPULACE AT LARGE UNAWARE OF THEIR PRESENCE OR THEIR TERRIFYING INTENTIONS. AN ADVANCE GUARD OF ALIEN MECHANOIDS, IN FORMS DESIGNED TO MIMIC LOCAL FORMS OF TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS HARDWARE AND WEAPONRY, INSTIGATING A STAGED PLAN OF STAGGERING PROPORTIONS.

PHASE ONE HAS BEGUN...

>>>>>

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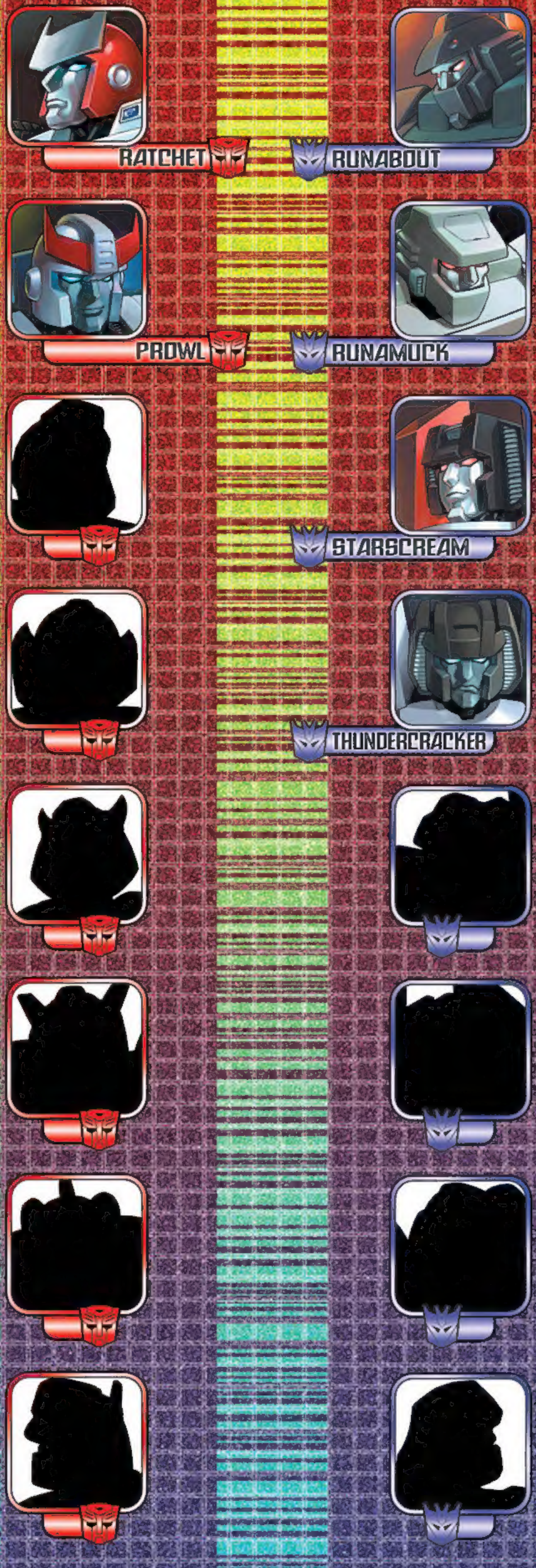

PHOENIX, AZ:

BUS STATIONS TO ME ARE LIKE MALLS TO REGULAR FOLK. EVERYTHING A FOOTLOOSE GIRL NEEDS...

...UNDER ONE ROOF.

I SIT BACK, TAKE IN TODAY'S SPECIALS...

PALM-COMPUTER. SWEET.

BUS TICKET TO L.A. HANDY.

LUNCH. BONUS.

I WATCH THE EBB AND FLOW, THE HUMAN TIDE...

I MISS *NOTHING.*

"READING INFRADATABASE)))

"TARGET)))

> MAPPING VERIFICATION IN PROGRESS...

"))ACQUIRED!"

> SCAN MATCH.

VECTOR LOCK>

THE MARK IS SOUND ASLEEP BEFORE WE HIT THE INTERSTATE...

THE LIVED-IN SUIT, THE FAST-FOOD COMPLEXION... I FIGURE HIM FOR A LONG-DISTANCE ***SALESMAN*** OF SOME DEADLY DULL VARIETY.

POOR LITTLE ***NOBODY.***

HE'LL HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO HIS BOSS...

...HOW HE ***LOST*** HIS EXPENSIVE COMPUTER.

THE NEAR-*RANCID* BAGEL...

...TURNS MY *IMPROV* PUKING INTO AN OSCAR-WINNER.

CH$ST

NEVER FAILS. HOT BUS, SICK GIRL...

KHEH-FFH-KK...

...COULDN'T LET ME *OFF* QUICK ENOUGH.

LAST LAPTOP DIED ON ME IN DENVER, A WEEK AGO. BEEN ON THE SCOPE FOR A *REPLACEMENT* EVER SINCE.

AND THIS...

...IS AS GOOD AS IT *GETS!*

ULTRALITE *SM-40* NOTEBOOK WITH CELL MODEM AND POWERPACK. SMALL... BUT *BEAUTIFULLY* FORMED.

BEEN OUT OF TOUCH SCARY LONG. LOOK OUT WORLDWIDE WEB, *VERITY CARLO*...

...IS *BACK* IN THE GAME!

OREGON:

"TARGET››› SANITIZED BUT›››

"›››THE CACHE IS MISSING."

FIND IIIIT!

HUNTER. *HUNTER O'NION.* THAT'S OH-NY-HON, *OKAY.*

YOU?

VERITY.

VERITY CAR-TER. LIKE IT SOUNDS.

RIGHT. YEAH. MY NAME, IT'S, Y'KNOW, ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE ALWAYS MAKE A *JOKE* OUT OF. AT SCHOOL I WAS *THE ONION.*

SUCKS, HUH?

SO...

WHAT A *CASE!* MOST "RIDES," THEIR EYES ARE ALL OVER YOU LIKE A *RASH.* THIS ONE... I'M NOT SURE I'VE *BLIPPED* HIS RADAR.

...YOU L.A.-BOUND? I CAN ONLY TAKE YOU AS FAR AS *DESERT CENTER.* YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?

UH-HUH.

...

WHAT'S IN DESERT CENTER? SOUNDS LIKE THE MIDDLE-OF-NOWHERE TO ME.

AH... ER...

I JUST HEAD *NORTH* THERE, IS ALL, ON THE ONE-SEVENTY-SEVEN...

TO?

C'MON! THE OPTIONS ARE PRETTY MUCH ROCK OR DESERT!

WHAT ARE *YOU*...

...SOME KIND OF BACK-TO-NATURE BOY?

AH, FORGET IT. YOU'LL JUST THINK I'M *WEIRD.* IT'S NOTHING.

OH! NO-*NO*...

IT'S VERY CLEARLY *NOT* NOTHING. LET ME TAKE A *WILD* GUESS. ALL THIS GEAR, THE GENERAL SUB-MULDER APPAREL...

...YOU'RE LOOKING FOR *LITTLE GREEN MEN,* RIGHT?

...

NOT *EXACTLY.* I—

VREEEENK

HOLD ON!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

IF YOU'RE—

I KNEW IT WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!

THAT INNOCENT "I-WOULDN'T-KNOW-WHAT-TO-DO-WITH-A-GIRL-IF-I-HAD-ONE" ACT...

EASY, EASY. LOOK—

SEE THAT?

IT'S SOMETHING... WHERE THERE SHOULD BE NOTHING.

SO?

JUST... TURN AROUND AND TAKE ME BACK TO THE INTERSTATE. WHATEVER YOUR INTENTIONS...

...I WANT OUT!

IT'S JUST A SMALL DETOUR, OKAY? A QUICK LOOK-SEE AND WE'RE ON OUR WAY, I PROMISE. THIS AREA, IT'S—

HEY...

"...WHAT'S **THAT** DOING OUT HERE?"

WHERE ARE YOU GOING *NOW?* DON'T— *HNG!*

FENK SHNK

EVERYONE OKAY?

AMAZINGLY... YEAH. THESE TWO CARS, THEY... *HIT* US, FORCED US RIGHT OFF THE ROAD.

THERE'S THIS REAL SPIKE-THROUGH-THE-EYES FLASH AND... NOTHING. NEXT THING WE'RE ALL STANDING OUT HERE...

...MINUS *ONE.*

MINUS ONE?

ALIEN DEATHRAY

THIS—IT'S THE BUS I TOOK OUT OF PHOENIX. BUT...

...NO "SALESMAN"!

LISTEN, SON, WHY'NT YOU GO ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS? AIN'T NO MYSTERY HERE...

...JUST AN ACCIDENT AND SOME GUY WHO'S MAYBE WANDERED OFF.

YOU... *SURE?*

SURE. BUS COMPANY'S GOT US ON *GPS.* THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY...

RIGHT. GOOD...

THUM THUM

"...US, TOO!"

BEFORE, WHEN I ASKED YOU ABOUT "LITTLE GREEN MEN," YOU SAID "NOT QUITE."

SO... WHAT? WHAT EXACTLY *ARE* YOU LOOKING FOR?

WOULD YOU BELIEVE...

...GIANT ROBOTS?

I RUN THIS WEB SITE, SEE, AND IT SUPPORTS A THEORY—WIDELY HELD—THAT TWO OR MORE YEARS AGO WE WERE *INVADED*...

...BY *EXTRATERRESTRIAL* MECHANOIDS!

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NEWS

PAGE 1 OF 1

AND WHAT? WE JUST HAVEN'T *NOTICED?*

THEY'RE... *IN DISGUISE!*

HAAH! OF *COURSE!*

WHA—

THE BOOM

INTO SOME KIND OF MILITARY TESTING RANGE! BACK UP... GET US OUT OF HERE NOW. YOU HEAR ME?
N-NOT... MILITARY...
AT LEAST...
...NOT OUR MILITARY!
I THINK MAYBE WE WERE JUST... SCANNED. AND WHATEVER IT WAS LOOKING FOR...

"...IT FOUND IT"

"CACHE REACQUIRED!"

ABOUT TIME. CONTAIN...

MOOVE!

VERITY...

ALIEN

DEATHRAY

OKAY, OKAY...

ALIEN

...AND PURGE!

KA-BOOM-M-M-M

THIS IS NOT HAPPENING. THIS IS *NOT* HAPPENING...

IT *IS*... NOW C'MON!

HE'S COMING BACK!

ALIEN DEATHRAY

EH-?

RRRT

ZZRAK

KRANG

...COME WITH ME!

ALIEN DEATHRAX

IF YOU WANT TO *LIVE*...